Paul Eugene Nixon
Railroad Pension File
Abstract

Paul worked for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad from February 1902 until January 1947. The railroad board was established in 1936 for current railroad employees. The following is abstracted from his railroad pension file.

The first document in Paul's file was a designation of beneficiary form of whom he designated wife Nettie Nixon as his beneficiary, and brother John Nixon as contingent beneficiary. This form was signed by Paul on 29 June 1938. His occupation at the time was a hostler for the Maryland Potomoc division of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in Cumberland, Maryland. He lived at 23 Grand Avenue.

In 1941, he filled out an employee information document who which he stated his name was Paul Eugene Nixon, 23 Grand Avenue, Cumberland, social security number 705-12-2357, born 12 March 1888 in Paw Paw, father's name James Edward Nixon, mother's name Martha Louise Hardy, and that he was a hostler for the railroad and started in February 1902.

Paul began working for the railroad one month before turning 14 years old. He worked with the railroad until applying for disability at age 59 in 1947.

Payroll records show some of his annual salary:

1924:	$2,227.70
1925:	$2,202.10
1926:	$2,143.05
1927:	$2.089.70
1928:	$2,102.30
1929:	$2,041.45
1930:	$1,910.40
1931:	$1,888.60

He stopped working in January 1947 due to disability and illness, the principal disability being described as nerves. His claim for

disability began with a physical examination by Dr. William Baker, an authorized doctor for the railroad board. Dr. Baker gave disability as “general weakness and nervousness”.

The medical report also notes Paul had been under treatment with Dr. C.E. Durrett and was hospitalized 17 February 1947 to 05 May 1947 and during this time given malaria treatment and was not in a good mental state: however, by the time of the examination by Dr. Baker on 28 May 1947, Paul’s mental state was greatly improved. Dr. Baker’s diagnoses also note Paul suffered from “cerebrospinal syphilis, mitral insufficiency, and moderate degree of arteriosclerosis”. The report notes Paul had been unable to work since 18 January 1947. It also notes he did not have teeth; that all had been extracted [not stated when] and he wore upper and lower plates.

In a letter dated 05 June 1947, the railroad board needed Paul to provide evidence of his birth date. Paul submitted a certification from the Board of Supervisors of Elections of Allegany County to the effect of verifying his birth date. The information from the election board certified Paul registered to vote on 07 October 1914, was then 26 years old [making a birth year of 1888], had lived in the election precinct, county, and state for 15 years, and born in West Virginia. Another letter in the file pertaining to Paul’s birth was a letter from the Brotherhood of Locomotive Fire and Enginemen, of Cleveland, Ohio; that Paul became a member of the organization on 03 June 1919, and that the birthdate on his application was 12 March 1888.

Paul was approved for disability on 27 March 1947, and would receive a monthly rate of $83.48. This rate was based on 30 years’ service with a monthly average compensation [salary] of $178.27 he had been receiving at the time of his disability.

The railroad retirement board required annual certifications of continued disability in order to continue receiving monthly disability payments. Paul provided these certifications from 1948 through 1952. He would turn 65 in 1953 when he would then start claiming retirement benefits instead of disability benefits.

Nettie applied for spousal retirement annuity benefits in 1953. She needed to provide evidence of their marriage, to which a certification was given from Allegany Circuit Court stating Paul Eugene Nixon, age 43, was married to Nettie Santymire, age 46, by W.D. Keene, minister, on 07 January 1932 in Cumberland.

Nettie was approved for a "wife's annuity" and her monthly rate was $40.00 with her first check being $66.67 covering a period slightly longer than one month from her original application.

A letter in the file from the Veteran's Administration notes that he applied for a veteran's pension in September 1953 [he served in World War I from 26 April 1918 to 04 February 1919].

Nettie's application, completed 10 March 1953, provides the following: her maiden name was Nettie Bearinger, born 05 September 1885 "near Berkeley Springs, Frederick County, Virginia", father's name Joseph Bearinger [middle name says 'unknown'], mother's name Sue Rainer Bearinger, that she and Paul were married 07 January 1932, that she was previously married to John W. Santymire on 15 November 1905 in Cumberland, and divorced on 02 January 1932 in Cumberland.

Nettie died 20 November 1961, and in the pension file was a copy of her last spousal annuity check which was then $69.80 per month.

Paul died 07 March 1967. In the file was a copy of his last retirement check which was then $146.45 per month.

Nettie's nephew Claude Barringer was the executor for Paul's estate, and he completed paperwork for reimbursement of funeral expenses. Paul's funeral took place at Scarpelli Funeral Home and was $1,046.00. Paul was reimbursed $250 from the Veteran's Administration, and $588.60 from the railroad retirement board as a final lump sum payout on Paul.